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Diana T Fritz 12/05/2006 11:36:41 AM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00446

SIPDIS  
CXABU:

ACTION: PAO  
INFO: DCM ECON POL AMB

DISSEMINATION: PAO  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: PAO:HOLSIN-WINDECKER  
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB  
CLEARED: PAO:DEDGINTON

VZCZCADI485  
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR  
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ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7924  
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0876  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0912  
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT  
RUMICEA/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//  
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 000446

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;  
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA  
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC  
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA  
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR ZEYA  
LONDON PASS MOC

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQI ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: ALL PAPERS CARRIED FRONT PAGE PHOTOS OF IRAQIS VOTING AND HEADLINES SUCH AS "IRAQIS WIN DEMOCRACY," IRAQIS DEFY TERROR TO CAST VOTES," IRAQIS EMERGE FROM THE TUNNEL WITH 60% PARTICIPATION," AND "IRAQIS VOTE IN BIG NUMBERS AND THE OCCUPATION RULES OUT A REQUEST TO WITHDRAW." EDITORIALS WERE VARIED IN TONE. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" NOTED THAT ENDING THE OCCUPATION SHOULD BE THE FIRST STEP AFTER THE ELECTIONS. ANOTHER EDITORIAL IN "AL BAYAN" POINTED OUT THAT THE IRAQI PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THEY ARE HAPPY ABOUT THE U.S. AND FOREIGN PRESENCE IN IRAQ. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL ITTIHAD" LAUDED THE IRAQI PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS EMBODIES THE IRAQI PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTIONS AS POTENTIAL FOR POSITION CHANGE. ANOTHER EDITORIAL IN "AL ITTIHAD" HEADLINED "THE BIRTH OF A NATION" COMMENTED THAT THE IRAQI ELECTION SIGNALS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR THE IRAQIS, AND THEY ARE FULLY AWARE OF THAT. AN IIP OP-ED ON IRAQI ELECTIONS WAS PUBLISHED IN "GULF NEWS" UNDER AMBASSADOR SISON'S NAME ON 01/30. A "GULF NEWS" EDITORIAL PRAISED THE WILL OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY (WAM) RE-PRINTED THIS ON THEIR OWN WEB SITE WITH THE COMMENT "EARNING THE WORLD'S RESPECT, UAE PAPER ABU DHABI, 31 JAN. 05 (WAM)--A UAE PAPER TODAY COMMENTED ON THE CURRENT IRAQ'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS, SAYING IN SEIZING THEIR DEMOCRATIC OPPORTUNITY, IRAQIS CONFOUND THE SKEPTICS." END SUMMARY.

¶2. UNDER THE HEADLINE "EARNING THE WORLD'S RESPECT, " "GULF NEWS" EDITORIALIZED 01/31: (DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH DAILY, CIRCULATION 95,000)

"Democracy cannot be imposed, but the way ordinary Iraqis seized the chance to contribute to the formation of stable government does them great credit. It can only be hoped that the dream of a normal life becomes reality."

¶3. UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE WILL OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE," AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 01/31: (ARABIC DAILY, ABU DHABI-BASED, SEMI-OFFICIAL, CIRCULATION 85,000)

". THE MASS POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE IRAQI ELECTIONS, ESPECIALLY THE PARTICIPATION OF IRAQI WOMEN AND THE GOOD TURNOUT AT ELECTION CENTERS THAT REACHED TO 72% OF THE 14 MILLION REGISTERED PEOPLE FOR ELECTIONS, EMBODIED THE IRAQI PEOPLE'S AWARENESS AND THEIR DESIRE TO IMPLEMENT THEIR NEW CIVILIZED PROJECT AND TO GET RID OF ALL THE PAST AND PRESENT LOOSE ENDS, IN ADDITION TO THEIR CONCERN ABOUT GETTING OUT OF THEIR CURRENT CRISIS AND STARTING WITH A NEW FUTURE AND WRITING A NEW BIRTH DATE FOR THIS NATION THAT POSSESSES ALL MEANS OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS."

¶4. NOTING THAT ENDING THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ SHOULD BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 01/3: (ARABIC DAILY, SHARJAH-BASED, SEMI-OFFICIAL, CIRCULATION 90,000)

". NO ONE SHOULD UNDER ESTIMATE WHAT IRAQ IS GOING THROUGH AND THE DANGERS IRAQIS ARE FACING, THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT DANGER IS THE OCCUPATION AND THE CHAOS CAUSED BY THE OCCUPATION. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM REQUIRE THE RESTORATION OF NORMAL LIFE IN IRAQ, EVEN IF IT OCCURS GRADUALLY. THE ELECTORAL PROCESS HAS BEEN CONCLUDED, BUT THERE ARE STILL STEPS TO BE DONE, AND THE HOPE IS THAT ENDING THE OCCUPATION WILL NOT BE THE LAST."

¶5. POINTING OUT THAT THE IRAQI ELECTIONS ARE NOT THE LAST STEP IN ACHIEVING STABILITY IN IRAQ, "AKHBAR AL-ARAB" EDITORIALIZED 01/31: (ARABIC DAILY, ABU DHABI-BASED, CIRCULATION 20,000)

". NO ONE COULD SAY THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD, IT SHOULD FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD OF STABILITY AND POLITICAL INTERACTION IN ORDER TO FORM THE COUNTRY'S PERMANENT CONSTITUTION. IRAQ WILL NOT BE STABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES UNLESS IRAQIS POSSESS CONTROL THROUGH A NATIONAL CONSENSUS OF ITS PEOPLE. THIS IS THE ONLY GUARANTEE FOR POLITICAL PROGRESS IN DEMOCRACY AND POLITICAL INTERACTION."

¶6. NOTING THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF IRAQIS PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION DOES NOT SIGNAL THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE FOREIGN PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY, "AL BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 01/30: (ARABIC DAILY, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED, CIRCULATION 40,000)

". THE LARGE NUMBER OF IRAQIS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ELECTION DOES NOT INDICATED THAT THEY ARE SATISFIED ABOUT THE FOREIGN PRESENCE IN THEIR COUNTRY, IT MEANS THAT THEY ARE SEEKING TO OVERCOME THE POST-SADDAM SITUATION IN IRAQ, AND THE FUTURE STARTS TODAY. WE ARE WITH IRAQ IN TRYING TO OVER COME ITS ORDEAL AND ITS DIFFICULT CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES."

¶7. UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE BIRTH OF A NATION," "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 01/30:

". TODAY, IN SPITE OF THE CRISIS THE IRAQI PEOPLE ARE FACING, THEY LOOK TO THEIR FUTURE WITH AWARENESS AND WISDOM, TRYING TO GET OUT OF THIS CRISIS WITH ALL MEANS AVAILABLE. THEIR EXPRESSION OF SELF-DETERMINATION WILL WIN OVER EVILNESS, INJUSTICE, AND THE REMNANTS OF THE PREVIOUS REGIME AND ESTABLISH A COUNTRY OF JUSTICE, PEACE, AND STABILITY AND BEGIN THE PROCESS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND REBUILDING FOR A NEW IRAQ."

¶8. CRITICIZING THE U.S. OCCUPATION OF IRAQ AND THEIR DELIBERANT IN DISMANTLING IRAQ, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 01/30:

". THE U.S. OCCUPATION IN IRAQ DELIBERATELY DISMANTLED IRAQ AND DESTROYED ITS POLITICAL, SECURITY, ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO RECONSTRUCT FOR ITS (THE U.S.) OWN

BENEFIT. THERE IS HOPE THAT THE IRAQI PEOPLE WILL CONSIDER THE ELECTIONS AND ITS RESULTS AS THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF THE OCCUPATION AND THE STARTING POINT IN RESTORING ITS SERENITY AND A REAL DEMOCRACY, WITH TRUE FREEDOM.THE ELECTION SHOULD NOT BE USED BY THE OCCUPATION TO JUSTIFY ITS EXISTENCE IN IRAQ."

SISON